Export oriented industrial units

†885. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of business carried out by export-oriented industrial units out of the total import-export trade of the country, during the last two years;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the said units during the same period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that being export-oriented units, these units are also getting various economic concessions and if so, the total amount of concession given to them in the said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Total foreign exchange earned by the Export Oriented (EOUs) during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 were to the extent of about US $ 8300 Million and US $ 8500 Million (provisional) respectively. The share of EOUs in the total exports of the country was about 9.94% and 8.28% during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. Units under export oriented scheme are given a package of incentives/financial concessions which include duty free import/procurement of capital goods, raw materials, consumables; deemed export benefits; income tax exempton; re-imbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST), etc. These benefits can't be quantified in financial terms.

Fall in prices of spices

886. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a fall in the prices of spices;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of spices during the last three years, year-wise and produce-wise;

(c) whether Government have since ascertained the reasons for the continuous fall in the prices of spices;

(d) whether Government would take steps to procure the produces with a minimum support price; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.